

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval device, comprising:

a proximal handle;

a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle; and

a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly comprising a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands, said distal portion extending perpendicular to the long axis of the retrieval device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath, wherein each strand has a first rigidity and each wire has a second rigidity different from the first rigidity.

19-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein each strand comprises stainless steel.

22. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein the proximal portion comprises a rigid material and the distal portion comprises a flexible material.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein at least one of the plurality of wires is flexible.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a square area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

27. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, further comprising a guidewire, wherein axial movement of the guidewire in a proximal direction collapses the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

28. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 27, wherein the guidewire is joined to a central portion of the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

29. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein moving the sheath in a distal direction causes the retrieval assembly to collapse when it enters the lumen.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for removing an object from a body tract, comprising:

inserting a retrieval device into the body tract, the retrieval device comprising:

a proximal handle;

a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle;

a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and,

a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands and extending perpendicular to the long axis of the device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath,

wherein each strand has a first rigidity and each wire has a second rigidity different from the first rigidity;

extending the retrieval assembly beyond the distal end of the sheath;
trapping the object by the distal portion of the retrieval assembly; and
withdrawing the retrieval device from the body tract.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising dilating the body tract around the object by the proximal portion when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein extending the retrieval assembly comprises moving the sheath in a proximal direction to cause the retrieval assembly to achieve an open position when the retrieval assembly extends beyond the distal end of the sheath.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the retrieval device further comprises a guidewire having a distal end joined to the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein trapping comprises trapping the object between the distal portion of the retrieval assembly and a body tissue when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends from the distal end of the sheath.

35. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a substantially circular area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

36. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 27, further comprising a second guidewire.

37. (New) A medical retrieval device, comprising:

- a proximal handle;
- a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle; and
- a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly including a proximal portion comprising a rigid material and a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a flexible material and further comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands, said distal portion extending perpendicular to the long axis of the retrieval device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath.

38. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 37, wherein each strand comprises stainless steel.

39. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 37, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a square area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

40. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 37, further comprising a guidewire, wherein axial movement of the guidewire in a proximal direction collapses the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

41. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 40, wherein the guidewire is joined to a central portion of the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

42. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 37, wherein moving the sheath in a distal direction causes the retrieval assembly to collapse when it enters the lumen.

43. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 37, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a substantially circular area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

44. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 40, further comprising a second guidewire.

45. (New) A medical retrieval device, comprising:

- a proximal handle;
- a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle; and
- a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly comprising a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands, said distal portion extending perpendicular to the long axis of the retrieval device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath,

wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a square area when the proximal portion assumes a three-dimensional shape.

46. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 45, wherein each strand comprises stainless steel.

47. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 45, wherein at least one of the plurality of wires is flexible.

48. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 45, further comprising a guidewire, wherein axial movement of the guidewire in a proximal direction collapses the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

49. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 48, wherein the guidewire is joined to a central portion of the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

50. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 45, wherein moving the sheath in a distal direction causes the retrieval assembly to collapse when it enters the lumen.

51. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 48, further comprising a second guidewire.

52. (New) A medical retrieval device, comprising:
a proximal handle;
a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle;
a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval

assembly comprising a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands, said distal portion extending perpendicular to the long axis of the retrieval device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath; and

a guidewire, wherein axial movement of the guidewire in a proximal direction collapses the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

53. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, wherein each strand comprises stainless steel.

54. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, wherein at least one of the plurality of wires is flexible.

55. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a square area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

56. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, wherein the guidewire is joined to a central portion of the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

57. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, wherein moving the sheath in a distal direction causes the retrieval assembly to collapse when it enters the lumen.

58. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a substantially circular area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

59. (New) The medical retrieval device of claim 52, further comprising a second guidewire.

60. (New) A method for removing an object from a body tract, comprising:
inserting a retrieval device into the body tract, the retrieval device comprising:

a proximal handle;

a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle;

a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and,

a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands and extending perpendicular to the long axis of the device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath;

extending the retrieval assembly beyond the distal end of the sheath;

dilating the body tract around the object by the proximal portion when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape;

trapping the object by the distal portion of the retrieval assembly; and

withdrawing the retrieval device from the body tract.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein extending the retrieval assembly comprises moving the sheath in a proximal direction to cause the retrieval assembly to achieve an open position when the retrieval assembly extends beyond the distal end of the sheath.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the retrieval device further comprises a guidewire having a distal end joined to the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein trapping comprises trapping the object between the distal portion of the retrieval assembly and a body tissue when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends from the distal end of the sheath.

64. (New) A method for removing an object from a body tract, comprising:
inserting a retrieval device into the body tract, the retrieval device
comprising:
a proximal handle;
a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the
sheath including a distal end away from the handle;
a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to
achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval
assembly comprising:
a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of
strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval
assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and,
a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal
portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal
end of at least two strands and extending perpendicular to the long axis of the device
when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the
sheath;
extending the retrieval assembly beyond the distal end of the sheath,
wherein extending the retrieval assembly comprises moving the sheath in a proximal
direction to cause the retrieval assembly to achieve an open position when the retrieval
assembly extends beyond the distal end of the sheath.

trapping the object by the distal portion of the retrieval assembly; and
withdrawing the retrieval device from the body tract.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the retrieval device further comprises a guidewire having a distal end joined to the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein trapping comprises trapping the object between the distal portion of the retrieval assembly and a body tissue when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends from the distal end of the sheath.

67. (New) A method for removing an object from a body tract, comprising:
inserting a retrieval device into the body tract, the retrieval device comprising:

a proximal handle;

a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle;

a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and,

a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands and extending perpendicular to the long axis of the device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath;

a guidewire having a distal end joined to the distal portion of the retrieval assembly;

extending the retrieval assembly beyond the distal end of the sheath;

trapping the object by the distal portion of the retrieval assembly; and

withdrawing the retrieval device from the body tract.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein trapping comprises trapping the object between the distal portion of the retrieval assembly and a body tissue when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends from the distal end of the sheath.